

H. R. 293.

FEBRUARY 14, 1823.

Read twice, and committed to a Committee of the whole House
to-morrow.

A BILL

To punish frauds committed on the Government of the United States.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives*
2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That,*
3 *if any person or persons shall falsely make, alter, forge, or*
4 *counterfeit; or cause or procure to be falsely made, altered,*
5 *forged, or counterfeited; or willingly aid or assist in the false*
6 *making, altering, forging, or counterfeiting, any deed, power*
7 *of attorney, order, certificate, receipt, or other writing, for*
8 *the purpose of obtaining or receiving, or of enabling any*
9 *other person or persons, either directly or indirectly, to obtain*
10 *or receive, from the United States, or any of their officers or*
11 *agents, any sum or sums of money; or shall utter, or publish*
12 *as true, or cause to be uttered or published as true, any such*
13 *false, forged, altered, or counterfeited deed, power of attor-*
14 *ney, order, certificate, receipt, or other writing, as aforesaid,*

15 with intent to defraud the United States, or any person or
16 persons whatsoever, knowing the same to be false, altered,
17 forged, or counterfeited; or shall transmit to, or present at,
18 or cause or procure to be transmitted to, or presented at, any
19 office or officer of the Government of the United States, any
20 deed, power of attorney, order, certificate, receipt, or other
21 writing, in support of, or in relation to, any account or claim.
22 with intent to defraud the United States, or any person or
23 persons whatsoever, knowing the same to be false, altered,
24 forged, or counterfeited, every such person shall be deemed
25 and adjudged guilty of felony; and being thereof duly con-
26 victed, shall be sentenced to be imprisoned, and kept at hard
27 labor, for a period not less than one year, nor more than ten
28 years; or shall be imprisoned, not exceeding five years, and
29 fined, not exceeding one thousand dollars.

1 SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That if any person or
2 persons shall knowingly have in his, her, or their, possession,
3 any false, altered, forged, or counterfeited deed, power of at-
4 torney, order, certificate, receipt, or other writing, for the pur-
5 pose of enabling any person or persons, either directly or
6 indirectly, to obtain or receive from the United States, or any
7 of its officers or agents, any sum or sums of money, knowing
8 the same to be false, altered, forged, or counterfeited, as afore-
9 said, with intent to defraud the United States, or any person
10 or persons whatsoever, every such person, upon being there-

11 of duly convicted, shall be fined and imprisoned at the dis-
12 cretion of the court, according to the nature and aggravation
13 of the offence: *Provided, nevertheless,* That nothing herein
14 contained shall be construed to deprive the courts of the se-
15 veral states of jurisdiction, under the laws thereof, over offen-
16 ces declared punishable by this law.